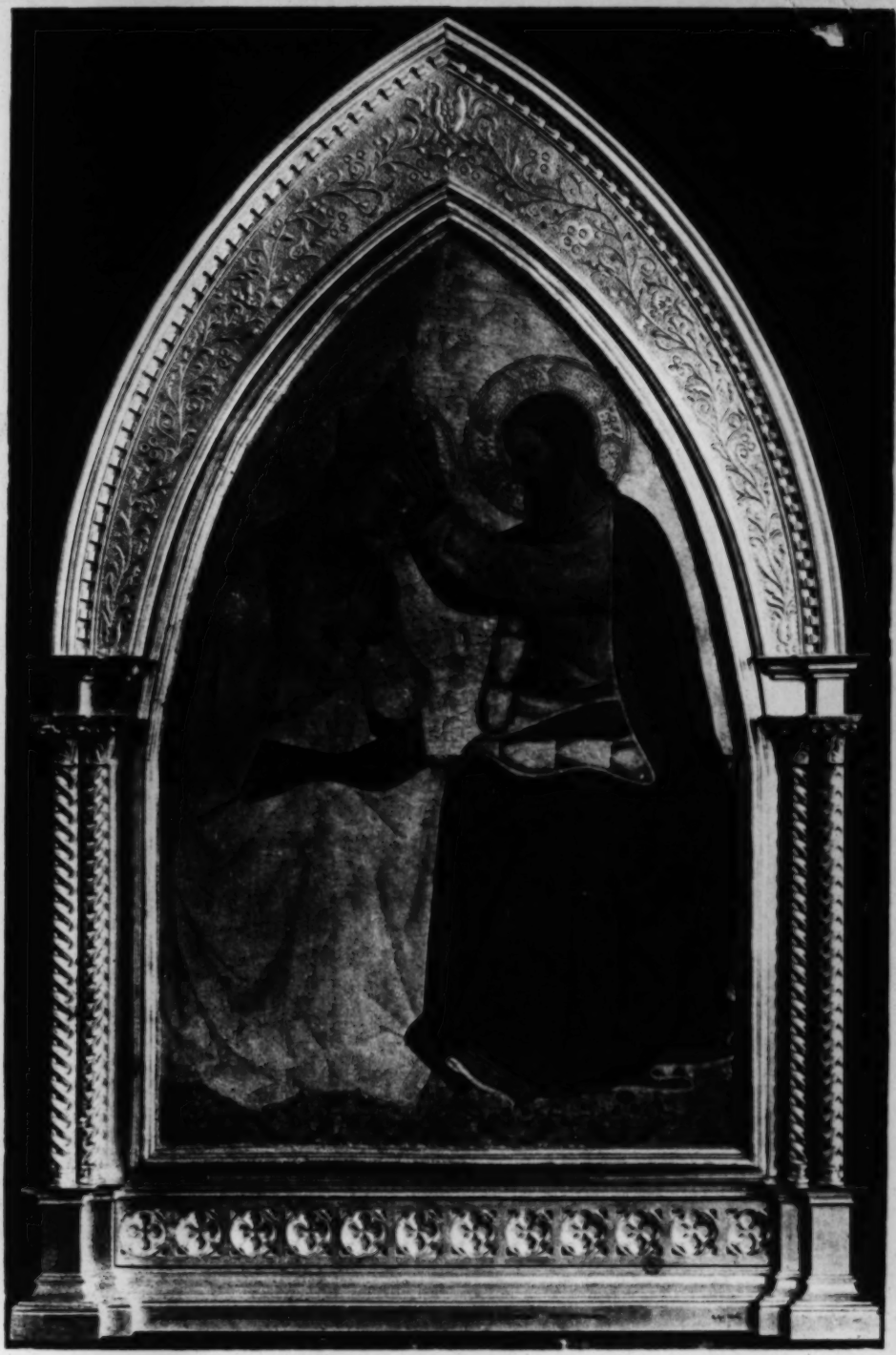

THE CORONATION OF THE VIRGIN

SCHOOL OF ORCAGNA (1308?–1368?). 46½in. × 30½in. CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER IONIDES COLLECTION

POSTCARD

This space may be used for
CORRESPONDENCE

I could come to tea
or ask tea tomorrow,
if you wd. be in:
But perhaps you
would kindly let me
know. V. W.
Monday.

Here is to be written t
ADDRESS

Mrs. Bell
8 Fitzroy Street
W. 1.

212

NYPL HAMILL 2/10/66

PORTRAIT OF CHRISTOPH VON LAIMING

BY HANS WERTINGER OF LANDSHUT. DATED 1517. 28in. × 21in.

P. 90 *Victoria and Albert Museum* No. 768–1865

POST CARD

This space may be used for CORRESPONDENCE

Here is to be written ADDRESS

Wednesday.

Would you like me
to come to tea
tomorrow? Or not?

V.

Mrs Clive Bell
8 Fitzroy Street
W. 1.

214

HAMILL 2/10/68

NYPL

1935

213

If you write on 4th
address to Poste Restante
Amsterdam.

... on 11th
Poste Restante
Verona

... on 12th P. R.
Bologna

214

1930

52 T-S.

Sunday 28th April.

I was very glad to get your letter, & hope you are now safe in Rome - How clever you to plan that tour! I wonder if you've seen Vita & Gwen & Hugh & Harold - but I daresay with your usual badger skill you've evaded. We return on Wednesday, & I am beginning to make lists of underclothes & things - but God knows, I hate buying dispendium - I wish Angelica would do it all for me - Also it's pleasing cold here. Black as a raven, & wet as a sea lion. Are you not! & the hydrangeas blooming, & the nurserymaids skimming themselves in - what ever the Gardens are called. London is all a fuzz with silver poles & paper crowns & festoons; but as I say, black as the pit, & not a ray of sun.

Julian & Aldy dined here last night, James having a cold. We couldn't have much gossip, as we got into a political argument which lasted all night - But Julian said Gage had been over, & asked, not Julian, but Playfair to tea: where he met the Keynes's. We had the Wigrams over, as we had shamelessly asked them about Jews in Germany. And how

we're forever committed to know them - She has an idiot
child, & he, though a nice honest Lighthouse man, is all
paralyzed. Hence her extreme discontent. And she is
not a sympathetic beauty - rather like an old daisy,
And then to my house. Happily Martin arrived,
& wasted the one fine day, talking incessantly about
that damned dull play & his own health - He is
suffering from Egomania. - The egg is bad - which is a
joke - But I am writing rather in a hurry, as you must
Even your poor Jingie. I have managed to put off tells
June, Ethel, Lily, Lyn, Hugh, & we there isn't much
news. I asked Duncan to dinner, but she said he is
still away, & I'm afraid I shan't see him. Your cat is
very well - I enclose Miss Cathy's to show what is up in
the art world. I gather that Julian is having a prickly
time with Ha over Mallarmé: I've not heard a word
from her. I am longing, not so much to see you, as to
return the kiss & see a bird in a bough. Still, upon
with kiss me I will simulate emotion - With love from us
your address, & write to (paper enclosed) - Please write orfen.
Prince Bismarck & the foreign office sent for Leonard &
gave him a letter recommending the Germans to treat us
with respect. They say we might be glad of it should we
find an anti Jewish riot on, but there's not much
risk of that. Tell Quentin he is a devil never to have
written to me. We arrive in Rome on 16th, afternoon. I'll
write cards on the way. So God Bless you & kiss
my niece & nephew. VB.

NYPL

Holland 2/10/68

1935

May 7th

HOTEL DES PAYS-BAS
UTRECHT
TEL. 13999

Here we are in the middle of Holland. So far it has been perfect – bloomy sun, until today no accidents, & not Kelly on the bus, but it was the bus's fault – It is extremely difficult driving however, as the streets are very narrow, & there are millions of cyclists – like flocks of swallows, & innumerable racing cars. Even Cousin Nea moved cycle if she were a Dutchwoman. We have been to Amsterdam, Dordrecht, Zutphen – Haarlem. It's all next door – I mean towns are only acres of fields. The great point about it is the beauty of the architecture: & the avenues, which are all colour, & the canals, & the tulips, & flowering trees, & weeping

their reflections into the water — Can such a thing be Land! I'm so cold, & my face burns like a flayed herring, I can hardly write Lear. We are so bent it is hardly nice to dine with an English Clergyman. The only Englishman we have seen by the way. I've also seen some of the best Rembrandts in the world; & Vermeers, but you wont want descriptions. But I dont see how to avoid them, as we are cut off from conversation completely. I've just got 3 letters — one from Ka, to ask me to meet her in a nursing home, one from Violet Dickinson, to ask me to tea, one from David Cecil who wants to have tea with us — Thank God, none of these things can be done at Utrecht. What a blessing the Channel is, in intercepting

NYPL

ours friends are in a way. By the way, as I was leaving, Sayer rang up to ask us our opinion of Judith, as Barbara wanted to know. Happily I seemed answered, & made a gallant effort. But how can you say that the low of the friend's apparently is either gay or honest? Then paper makes calligraphy impossible. It's like writing on a biscuit. Tomorrow we start for Germany: but I dont think we shall be interned, owing to Metzi. We are relied everywhere like John Shaw. Generally there is a crowd of 20 round the car when we stop. All the children come running: old ladies are sent for: they always send big offering to show us the way or do anything for us — such is their love of Art (please consider this) I'll walk from Verona. I expect we shall do to Hassfurt but I'll let you know. Please write to me as

often as you can.

Its very expensive here, & I think we have spent more in one week than in 3 elsewhere. & there is not much human beauty, but every virtue - cleanliness, honesty, & 20 or: bad coffee; delicious biscuits: the Cows wear ~~brass~~ NYPL brown holland Coats; & its amazingly lonely - the Beach & the walks & the marshes & the ~~barges~~ barges & the ..... but I will stop then sentence, for the plain fact I cant form my letters only I must say you ought to paint the tulips gold - the hyacinths gold & the lilies laid out flat with about 20 miles of water to in & out, & 18 sheep. & windmills. Um Letty. more writing.

To goodbye. I spose about Victor transformation. Harold says it will change & wife - I say it's love - VB

Model No. 35
2500 — 1'35

HAMILTON 2/10/48

often as you can

Its very refreshing here, & I think we have spent more in one week than in 3 elsewhere. & there is not much human beauty, but very virtuous - cleanliness, honesty & 20 or: bad coffee; delicious biscuits: the Cows wear ~~brass~~ NYPL brown holland Coats; & its amazingly lovely - the Beech & the walks & the marshes & the ~~barges~~ barges & the ..... but I will stop this sentence, for the plain fact I cant form my letters only I must say you ought to paint the hills pink - the sea emerald & the land pale lilac with about 20 miles of water to run out, 18 inches of water & wondrously sheep. So goodbye. I agree about Victor Brauner & Matta. Harold says it will change & life - I say it's love - VB

Model No. 35
2500 — 1'35

HJ mss 2/10/64